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received a less important and directing function in the discussion, and that, with less heard about value, more would have been heard about utility—all to the great profit of a book which, nevertheless, is upon the whole an admirable piece of work.

H. J. DAVENPORT.

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*Dictionnaire du commerce de l'industrie et de la banque.* By MM. YVES GUYOT and A. RAFFALOVICH. Paris: Gillaumin & C<sup>ie</sup>, 1901. 2 vols., 8vo, pp. 1286 and 1702.

UNDER the above title the editors have, with the assistance of some four hundred contributors, brought together within the space of two large volumes a mass of material on various subjects. The work purports to be a dictionary of commerce, industry and banking. Its scope is more analogous to that of a general encyclopædia, in which geography plays a disproportionate rôle. It is questionable whether much of this easily accessible material might not be omitted and other subjects emphasized with profit. The great advantage of the work lies in the fact that most of the contributors are experts of a high order. Their large number has rendered more difficult the task of the editors. The work lacks symmetry. Although a dictionary of commerce, industry and banking, the articles "Commerce" and "Industry" are condensed to three pages. Industry is, of course, treated in detail under the various commodities, but "commerce" is minimized. Some articles are treated in a comparative way, as, for example, that on banking, where about eight pages are devoted to the "Bank of France" and over three times the number to foreign banks. On the other hand, twenty pages are devoted to the French tariff, and nothing is said in regard to the tariff administration or history of foreign countries. In the five-page article on inland navigation, four and one-half pages are devoted to France. Some articles contain bibliographies, but there is no uniformity in the matter. The generally high expert character of the contributors renders especially valuable that phase of the work—a most important phase—relating to industrial technology.

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*Studies in the Evolution of Industrial Society.* By RICHARD T. ELY ("The Citizens Library of Economics, Politics, and Sociology"). New York: The Macmillan Co., 1903. 8vo, pp. xviii + 497.

In general plan Professor Ely's latest book is much like Professor Bücher's *Industrial Evolution*. Both books are collections of essays on

various phases of economic development, and owe such unity as they possess solely to the emphasis put on "the thought of industrial evolution," as Professor Ely phrases it in his preface. Both books are divided into two parts, though Ely has made the division more prominent in the table of contents than has Bücher. The first part—Ely's "General Survey" and Bücher's first four essays—traces the general course of economic development from savagery to civilization. The second part—Ely's "Special Problems of Industrial Evolution" and Bücher's last six essays—provides an appropriate place for the republication of miscellaneous papers.

Of these two parts the first seems more inviting. Essays on "special problems of industrial evolution" we have in abundance. Indeed, most of the economic publications of the day might be ranged under such a caption quite as properly as Ely's and Bücher's essays. But serious attempts to take a "general survey" of the course of economic evolution are not common. Consequently, when an economist of Professor Ely's prominence addresses himself to this theme, he may be confident of receiving wide attention from students. Many such will be disappointed to find that Professor Ely has decided to devote less space to the "general survey" than to the "special problems." The first part occupies but 119 pages, less than a quarter of the book. Of course, such a limited space permits only the most sketchy treatment of the subject. What Professor Ely says in his preface of the whole book applies pre-eminently to this portion—"there is scarcely a chapter . . . which could not be expanded into a volume."

The survey is based upon List's classification of "economic stages" according to the dominant mode of production. This classification, which in Ely's version distinguishes (1) the hunting and fishing stage; (2) the pastoral stage; (3) the agricultural stage; (4) the handicraft stage; and (5) the industrial stage, still remains in his opinion "the most serviceable as a framework within which to study the course of economic development" (p. 24). The discussion consists of a brief characterization of each of these five stages. For example, in treating of the first stage Ely points out that hunters and fishers lead a nomadic life; that when they practice cultivation at all they do not get beyond "hoe-culture;" that they keep few if any slaves; that they lack foresight; that magic and ceremonial play a large rôle in the economic operations; that their life is largely communal; and that trade is little developed among them.

This plan of investigation is open to the serious objection that it

does not afford even a bird's-eye view of "the course of economic development." To enumerate and characterize the "economic stages" is to state rather than to solve the important problem. This problem is not how do peoples in the usual stages live, but rather how and why have some peoples advanced from one stage to another. Regarding this question Professor Ely says but very little; even that little is sometimes of questionable validity. The suggestion, *e. g.*, that man "seems first to have tamed animals for amusement" (p. 39) will hardly be acceptable to students who are acquainted with recent discussions of domestication that assign the predominant rôle to religious factors.

Certain of the details as well as the general plan of Professor Ely's discussion are open to criticism. These minor blemishes seem due to the manner in which the "comparative method" is employed. That this method of dealing with ethnological data is capable of producing valuable results in the hands of a candid investigator whose knowledge of the material is exhaustive, no one doubts. But the wrecks of many exploded theories prove that the method may lead to unsound generalizations when used by anyone whose ethnological reading has not been very wide. Professor Ely's misadventures with it but illustrate its dangers afresh. He writes as if a quotation showing the presence or absence of a certain institution among any tribe in one of his economic stages is satisfactory evidence of its presence or absence among all other tribes in the same stage. Professor Ely would no doubt repudiate such a proposition if stated in set terms, but the discovery that his views are substantiated by descriptions of certain tribes has seemingly persuaded him that investigation of other tribes in the same stage is unnecessary. So he is brought very naturally to assert as generally valid propositions that may not apply at all to some of the tribes with whose manner of life he is unacquainted. For example, all the above-enumerated characteristics of the economic life of hunters and fishers may hold true of the Australian aborigines, but they do not all hold true of Eskimos and the Indians of British Columbia. The last-named group of tribes belong beyond question in Ely's first stage, but they had permanent villages, numerous slaves, and an active trade. Again, Professor Ely speaks of "the contrast between rich and poor making its appearance" among pastoral tribes (p. 43). Had he thought of these same Eskimos and British Columbians, he would have recognized that such contrasts are sometimes prominent features in the life of hunters and fishers.

It does not seem unreasonable to call attention to the looseness of

these statements, and others like them that might be quoted. The harm is not merely that the statements are inaccurate, but also that no adequate impression is conveyed of the complexity of economic development. The reader is in danger of forming a hazy notion that practically identical habits of life prevail among all peoples in the same "stage," and that economic evolution consists simply in passing on as promptly as possible from one of these fixed stages to the next. Of the wide variety of habits of thought and action, of the many directions in which progress may be made, of the various circumstances that may promote or hinder development, there are few suggestions. Not only does the picture lack details—that much is inevitable from its small size—but also there is no hint that details exist that would appear clearly on a larger canvas. Had Professor Ely taken more space for his "general survey," he would no doubt have read more widely, and written more circumspectly. Allowances have to be made for the small scale of the discussion, but when all has been said the question remains whether a discussion so limited as to be inaccurate is of any value to the special student or proper for the casual reader.

If Professor Ely's "General Survey" must be characterized as defective in plan, inaccurate in detail, and misleading in effect, much pleasanter things can be said of the essays on "special problems" that occupy three-fourths of the book. These papers deal with a wide range of important questions—competition, monopolies, and trusts, municipal ownership, concentration of wealth, inheritance, public expenditures, the labor problem, social ethics and the possibilities of social reform. It is by his sane discussions of such questions as these that Professor Ely has gained so wide an influence. In them he shows to the best advantage. But ungracious as it may seem, there is less reason for dwelling upon the merits of these papers than upon the defects of the "General Survey." For the chapters of the second part are based upon previous publications which must already be familiar to many economic students, and the reader who has not seen these particular articles before does not require the assurance that they are characterized by a temperate point of view, careful presentation of facts and opinions, and width and freshness of information. These virtues of Professor Ely's work in his old fields are familiar; it is the faults of the over-hasty excursion into a new field that attract attention by their novelty.

W. C. MITCHELL.